

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FIRST SELECTMAN PATRICIA MECHARE

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Selectman Patricia Mechare, a tireless public servant for the town of Falls Village, Connecticut. First Selectman Mechare is retiring after 12 years as First Selectman, but her service to the town will continue, and her contributions to the community will be felt for years to come.

Pat comes from a long line of public service. Her father, Rolland, served on the Boards of Finance, Education, and Selectmen for the Town of Canaan. Pat followed his example and began her career in public service, joining Falls Village's Planning and Zoning Commission in 1977. As a public school teacher and a member of numerous town departments, including the Board of Education and the Day Care Building Committee, Pat quickly made her mark on the community.

In 2005, Pat was elected First Selectman of Falls Village. Her commitment to the role led to substantial community development for one of Connecticut's smallest towns. By working with all levels of government, Pat was a strong advocate for Falls Village, securing public grants to develop Main Street and kick start public works throughout the town. Even in her retirement, Pat plans to remain heavily involved in her community.

Mr. Speaker, First Selectman Pat Mechare is an exemplary role model for our community and for public servants everywhere. Falls Village and the entire State of Connecticut are better places because of her efforts. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING MASTER HA HUYEN THANH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important figure in the Vietnamese martial arts community, Master Ha Huyen Thanh and his significant contributions to the General Association for the Development of World Martial Arts for over 20 years.

Master Ha Huyen Thanh was born as Ha Cong Huyen in Ninh Binh, Vietnam. He developed a passion for martial arts at an early age and pursued his passion through Shaolin, Judo, and self-defense martial arts when his family and he moved to the South of Vietnam in 1954.

Upon receiving his Black Belt, Master Thanh became a Judo instructor and continued his training to become a Master. During this time,

he became the Finance Commissioner for the "Vietnam Judo Association" and joined the Republic of Vietnam Air Force.

Master Thanh was invited to instruct Judo at various places including Ngo Quyen training center, Tinh Nghiem Temple, and Bien Hoa Orphanage. His great talents granted him the opportunity to become the committee member for Mekong Judo Competition—a competition which was organized in Saigon, Vietnam and had eleven countries worldwide participate.

When Master Ha Huyen Thanh came to the United States, he became a journalist and worked for various broadcasting stations in Orange County, California.

In 1993, Master Ha Huyen Thanh's continuous passion for martial arts urged him to establish the General Association for the Development of World Martial Arts. The association has been hosting the World Martial Arts festival every two years to gather over 500 martial arts Masters, instructors, and students to showcase various types of martial arts. The association has also made great efforts to help their members open more training centers. Master Thanh is currently the General Secretary for the Association.

On September 1, 2017, Master Thanh passed away, but his dedication to preserve and promote martial arts, and his impact on the Vietnamese martial arts community will remain a legacy.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANTHONY LOCKHART, FLORIDA'S 2017 PRIN- CIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Anthony Lockhart, Principal at Lake Shore Middle School and Florida's 2017 Principal of the Year. Mr. Lockhart has shown outstanding merit and dedication to his profession. He has been a source of inspiration and courage for hundreds of students for more than 20 years with the Palm Beach County School District. He has gained well-earned accolades for his ability to connect with his students and has gone above and beyond his call of duty to improve the performance of a struggling school. Dr. Lockhart was named the Legacy Magazine 2015 Top High School Educators of the Year and was also named one of the top 50 most influential black professionals.

After graduating from Jackson State University, Dr. Lockhart worked as a counselor to young people—it is this critically important work that would eventually lead him to become a school guidance counselor and work his way up to principal. Dr. Lockhart believes that education is the great equalizer—that no matter what socioeconomic or racial background an individual comes from, they can accomplish anything if they obtain an education.

Lake Shore Middle School faced many challenges when Dr. Lockhart became Principal. Not shy about rolling up his sleeves and getting to work, he started interviewing teachers and community members to ascertain what needed to be done to make the school as successful as he knew it could be. Dr. Lockhart, armed with this information, then worked with teachers and community members alike to change the school culture. This diligent work resulted in the school going from being graded at a F– to a C rated school and being recognized by Florida Governor Rick Scott for being in the top ten percent of middle schools in five categories. Dr. Lockhart has no doubt that this achievement could not have been possible without the efforts from a supportive community, a focused group of educators, and a dedicated administrative staff. Instead of seeing students that embraced a failing attitude, he saw children that had not been given an opportunity to succeed; he saw teachers that needed encouragement, training and support; and a community that could be convinced that success was possible.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize and honor Dr. Anthony Lockhart today for his accomplishments and his dedication, may we also recognize the hope and light educators like Dr. Lockhart bring to the future of this country.

HONORING CHARLIE MAE DAVIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary mother, grandmother, activist, and public servant, Charlie Mae Davis. With her passing on September 9, 2017 the East Bay lost a champion for justice, and many of us lost a life-long friend.

Charlie Mae was a Texas transplant to California. She was born in Rockdale, and graduated from high school in Waco. In 1950, she moved to California where she met her future husband, Arthur Lee Davis. Charlie Mae and Arthur Lee were married in 1964, and raised a wonderful family together.

During this period when she was raising her family, Charlie Mae was very active in her community, and eventually went to work at Brookfield Elementary, where she would later retire after working as an assistant to the principal.

Charlie Mae gave selflessly of her time to help improve her community, and was passionate about improving the lives of her neighbors in Oakland. In 1992, she, along with a core group of activists, worked to establish the Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Rally, which is the longest continuously held celebration in Oakland to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. I was grateful to participate in this past year's Oakland MLK Day rally, marking the event's 25th anniversary. This wonderful event's continuation for future generations is a great legacy for Charlie Mae.

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